

A Remarkable Aberration of *Gonepteryx cleopatra* L. (Lep.: Pieridae) from Malta

By T. G. HOWARTH*
ab. *vallettai* ab. nov.

♂ Upperside. Forewing of normal shape and lemon yellow ground colour but lacks completely the usual deep orange discal marking which is replaced by a much paler almost creamy yellow. This extends further distad towards the margin than usual. The normal lemon yellow ground colour extends basad along the costa, the veins and interneural folds and the normally obscured sexual brand which runs as a line from the hind margin to beyond vein 4 is also a lemon yellow and is thus clearly visible against the whitish yellow of the disc. Hindwing normal in shape but lacks the characteristic orange discoidal spot which is replaced by whitish scales. Underside of both fore- and hindwings normal in coloration and markings.

The holotype was bred from ova laid by a captured female of normal coloration and was the only aberrant specimen to emerge amongst the seven reared.

Holotype ♂. Malta, Buskett. Bred ex ova laid by female taken 10.vi.52 (coll. A. Valletta).

Paratype ♂. Malta, Buskett. Captured 13.vi.71. Paul Sammut (coll. P. Sammut).

The fact that two specimens of this aberration have occurred within the same neighbourhood is significant and would indicate that it is genetical in origin.

I have pleasure in naming this very distinct insect after Mr. A. P. Valletta, the doyen of Maltese entomologists.

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EUPHYDRYAS AURINIA ROTT. (MARSH FRITILLARY) REDISCOVERED IN WORCESTERSHIRE. — After 23 years without any known confirmed sightings of this butterfly in Worcestershire, I am pleased to report the existence of a colony in 1976. The species used to be fairly well distributed in the county, but thorough search during the last 10 years of 16 old haunts, and other likely looking places, have all proved negative.

The clue which led to its discovery in 1976 came in mid-August, when Miss J. Lewis and the Worcs. Nature Conservation Trust phoned to tell me about a chance conversation in which a lady had mentioned this butterfly amongst others seen during the summer. The account and location seemed plausible, so on 21st August my wife and I made a two-hour search for larvae and succeeded in finding five nests.

As far as I can ascertain, this is the only current site for *aurinea* in the old counties of Worcestershire, Warwickshire, Staffordshire, Shropshire and Herefordshire, and so I have decided not to disclose the location. However, it would be of interest if anyone else can claim knowledge of any site for *aurinia* in these five counties. I know, incidentally, that there are still a few sites for it in Gloucestershire. — J. E. GREEN, 25 Knoll Lane, Malvern, Worcs., WR14 3JU.